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- 16. Paralyzed Army vet awarded \$8.3M in VA hospital lawsuit.**
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U.S. News reported that it ranked 234 schools that work with veterans through the GI ... which allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for partial tuition at ...
2. [Statement by Secretary Hagel on the Disabilities Treaty](#). On behalf of America's service members, DoD civilians, and military family members with disabilities, I urge the United States Senate to approve the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. One of the legacies of the past twelve years of war is that thousands of young Americans will carry physical wounds for the rest of their lives. These wounded ...
3. [Native American Code Talkers Get Congressional Gold Medal](#). Native American "code talkers" who transmitted codes based on 33 tribal dialects during World Wars I and II so enemies could not decipher them were patriots with "unique capabilities and willingness to give their
4. [Kerry: Deal reached with Afghans on US operations after 2014](#). After months of tense negotiations, the United States on Wednesday reached an accord with Afghan President Hamid Karzai on the text of an agreement governing U.S. military operations after 2014, Secretary of State John Kerry announced.
5. [On eve of Afghan council, uncertainty over future of military mission](#).
Despite the backroom dealings and negotiations of the past few weeks, nothing is certain about the fate of a security agreement between the United States and Afghanistan that will have major implications for the future of a country America invaded 12 years ago.
6. [Does Veterans' benefits scandal offer a forecast for Obamacare?](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Washington Times:** On this date in 1863, one hundred and fifty years ago, an incredible president gave an incredibly meaningful speech at the dedication of the cemetery to honor the memory of the Union Army soldiers who "gave the last full measure of devotion" at Gettysburg.

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7. [Portland VA hospital recognized as 'top performer'](#). [Hyperlink to Article Statesman Journal](#): Thirty-two Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the nation, including the Portland VA Medical Center, have been recognized as “top performers” by the independent panel that accredits and certifies health care organizations.
8. [ANN ARBOR: VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System recognized for significant advancement in patient-centered care](#). [Hyperlink to Article Ann Arbor Journal](#): The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has been awarded Planetree Silver Recognition for Significant Advancement in Patient-Centered Care. VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System is the first health care organization in the United States to be awarded Silver-level recognition since Planetree first introduced the recognition level in 2012.
9. [Military affairs beat: Need for Mpls. VA's trauma unit gets review](#). [Hyperlink to Article Star Tribune](#): Changes may be coming to the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center, one of five centers in the country that provide intensive rehabilitation to veterans and service members with severe injuries (including brain injuries).
10. [Bacteria found in W.Va. hospital's water system](#). [Hyperlink to Article News & Observer \(AP\)](#): An official at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Clarksburg says small amounts of bacteria linked to Legionnaires disease has been found in the facility's water system.
11. [W.Va. veterans facilities criticized](#). [Hyperlink to Article Charleston Daily Mail](#): Veterans in wheelchairs have a tough time fitting through the door at the Beckley office of the state Department of Veterans Assistance. It's not much better once they're inside, according to a state review.
12. [\\$12M apartment project serving homeless vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article Indianapolis Business Journal](#): Lincoln Apartments, the city's first permanent supportive housing facility for homeless veterans, opened Tuesday, about a year after city and local not-for-profit officials broke ground on the project.
13. [Stand Down provides services for area's veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article Fremont News Messenger](#): More than 40 vendors from multiple service industries attended the third annual Veteran Stand Down at the American Legion on Wednesday.

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14. [State Parks offers job opportunities for homeless veterans.](#) TriValley Central Phoenix - The Arizona State Parks department, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is launching a new program to offer opportunities for ...
15. [Lawmakers Frustrated by VA Construction Delays.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military.com:** Four years after the General Accountability Office recommended changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs that would reduce potential cost increases and schedule delays to major construction projects, there is still some question about how far the VA has come in adopting them.
16. [Paralyzed Army vet awarded \\$8.3M in VA hospital lawsuit.](#) [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **Army Times:** An Army veteran who lost a leg and suffered severe brain damage when a routine surgical procedure at the John Cochran VA Medical Center went wrong has been awarded \$8.3 million in a medical negligence lawsuit.
17. [Wounded Soldier Uses Adaptive Reconditioning to Assist Others As He Continues to Serve.](#) Army Staff Sgt. Giovanni Pascascio will always remember July 8, 2007. "You kinda remember the day you got blown up." During his second deployment to Iraq, a truck full of explosives ...
18. [VA introduces dental insurance.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Federal Employees News Digest:** The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will begin to offer dental insurance to eligible veterans and family members. VA partnered with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible vets and family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program to buy the dental coverage.
19. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as November 21, 2013:**
 - **December 11, 2013.** SVAC will hold a hearing on claims transformation and efforts at reducing the backlog. The hearing will build upon the claims hearing SVAC held in March.
20. **Today in History:**
 - [1789](#) – [North Carolina](#) ratifies the [United States Constitution](#) and is admitted as the 12th [U.S. state](#).
 - [1861](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Confederate](#) President [Jefferson Davis](#) appoints [Judah Benjamin](#) secretary of war.
 - [1877](#) – [Thomas Edison](#) announces his invention of the [phonograph](#), a machine that can record and play sound.

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- [1894](#) – [Port Arthur, Manchuria falls to the Japanese](#), a decisive victory of the [First Sino-Japanese War](#), after which Japanese troops are accused of the [massacre](#) of the remaining inhabitants of the city. Reports conflict on this subject.
- [1902](#) – The [Philadelphia Football Athletics](#) defeated the [Kanaweola Athletic Club](#) of [Elmira, New York](#), 39-0, in the first ever professional [American football night game](#).
- [1910](#) – Sailors onboard Brazil's most powerful military units, including the brand-new warships [Minas Geraes](#), [São Paulo](#), and [Bahia](#), violently rebel in what is now known as the *Revolta da Chibata* ([Revolt of the Lash](#)).
- [1916](#) – [World War I](#): A mine explodes and sinks [HMHS Britannic](#) in the [Aegean Sea](#), killing 30 people.
- [1918](#) – [A pogrom](#) takes place in Lwów (now [Lviv](#)); over three days, at least 50 Jews and 270 Ukrainian Christians are killed by Poles.
- [1920](#) – [Irish War of Independence](#): In [Dublin](#), 31 people are killed in what became known as "[Bloody Sunday](#)". This included fourteen British informants, fourteen Irish civilians and three [Irish Republican Army](#) prisoners.
- [1922](#) – [Rebecca Latimer Felton](#) of [Georgia](#) takes the oath of office, becoming the first female [United States Senator](#).
- [1927](#) – [Columbine Mine Massacre](#): [Striking coal miners](#) are allegedly attacked with [machine guns](#) by a detachment of state [police](#) dressed in [civilian](#) clothes.
- [1942](#) – The completion of the [Alaska Highway](#) (also known as the Alcan Highway) is celebrated (however, the [highway](#) is not usable by general vehicles until 1943).
- [1945](#) – The United Auto Workers Union strikes 92 General Motors plants in 50 cities to back up worker demands for a 30-percent raise.
- [1953](#) – The [British Natural History Museum](#) announces that the "[Piltdown Man](#)" [skull](#), initially believed to be one of the most important fossilized hominid skulls ever found, is a hoax.
- [1959](#) – American disc jockey [Alan Freed](#), who had popularized the term "[rock and roll](#)" and music of that style, is fired from [WABC-AM](#) radio for refusing to deny allegations that he had participated in the [payola](#) scandal.
- [1962](#) – The [Chinese People's Liberation Army](#) declares a unilateral [cease-fire](#) in the [Sino-Indian War](#).
- [1964](#) – The [Verrazano-Narrows Bridge](#) opens to traffic (at the time it is the world's longest [suspension bridge](#)).
- [1967](#) – [Vietnam War](#): [American](#) General [William Westmoreland](#) tells news reporters: "I am absolutely certain that whereas in 1965 the enemy was winning, today he is certainly losing."
- [1969](#) – [U.S. President Richard Nixon](#) and Japanese Premier [Eisaku Sato](#) agree in [Washington, D.C.](#) on the return of [Okinawa](#) to [Japanese](#) control in 1972. Under the terms of the agreement, the U.S. is to retain its rights to bases on the island, but these are to be nuclear-free.
- [1970](#) – Vietnam War: [Operation Ivory Coast](#) – A joint [Air Force](#) and Army team raids the [Son Tay](#) prison camp in an attempt to free American [prisoners of war](#) thought to be held there.
- [1971](#) – [Indian](#) troops, partly aided by [Mukti Bahini](#) ([Bengali guerrillas](#)), defeat the [Pakistan](#) army in the [Battle of Garibpur](#).
- [1972](#) – Voters in [South Korea](#) overwhelmingly approve a new constitution, giving legitimacy to [Park Chung-hee](#) and the [Fourth Republic](#).

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- [1974](#) – The [Birmingham Pub Bombings](#) kill 21 people. The [Birmingham Six](#) are sentenced to life in prison for the crime but subsequently acquitted.
- [1979](#) – The [United States](#) Embassy in [Islamabad](#), [Pakistan](#) is attacked by a mob and [set on fire](#), killing four.
- [1980](#) – A [deadly fire](#) breaks out at the MGM Grand Hotel in [Paradise, Nevada](#) (now [Bally's Las Vegas](#)). 87 people are killed and more than 650 are injured in the worst disaster in Nevada history.
- [1985](#) – [United States Navy](#) intelligence analyst [Jonathan Pollard](#) is arrested for [spying](#) after being caught giving [Israel](#) classified information on [Arab](#) nations. He is subsequently sentenced to life in prison.
- [1986](#) – [Iran-Contra Affair](#): National Security Council member [Oliver North](#) and his secretary start to shred documents allegedly implicating them in the sale of weapons to [Iran](#) and channeling the proceeds to help fund the [Contra](#) rebels in [Nicaragua](#).
- [1989](#) – Flight attendants celebrate the signing into law a smoking ban on all U.S. domestic flights.
- [1995](#) – The [Dayton Peace Agreement](#) is initialed at the [Wright Patterson](#) Air Force Base, near [Dayton, Ohio](#), ending three and a half years of war in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#). The agreement is formally ratified in [Paris](#), on [December 14](#) that same year.
- [2002](#) – [NATO](#) invites [Bulgaria](#), [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Romania](#), [Slovakia](#) and [Slovenia](#) to become members.
- [2004](#) – The second round of the [Ukrainian presidential election](#) is held, giving rise to massive protests and controversy over the election's integrity.
- [2004](#) – The island of [Dominica](#) is hit by the most destructive [earthquake](#) in its history. The northern half of the island receives the most damage, especially the town of [Portsmouth](#). It is also felt in neighboring [Guadeloupe](#), where one person is killed.
- [2004](#) – The [Paris Club](#) agrees to write off 80% (up to \$100 billion) of [Iraq's](#) external debt.
- [2006](#) – Anti-Syrian Lebanese Minister and MP [Pierre Gemayel](#) is assassinated in suburban [Beirut](#).
- [2009](#) – A [mine explosion](#) in [Heilongjiang](#) province, northeastern China, kills 108.